

REMARKS:

At the time of the Final Office Action, claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 13 and 18 stand allowed, claim 4 has been found to contain allowable subject matter, and claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-17, 19 and 20 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 11 and 14 have been amended. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the subject application.

Allowance of claims 13 and 18 is noted with thanks.

It is also noted that claim 4 has been found to contain allowable subject matter. However, since claim 4 depends from claim 1, and it is believed that claim 1 is allowable as set forth below, claim 4 has not been rewritten in independent form at this time.

Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonner (USPN 5,293,043) in view of Spence (USPN 6,106,659) and Pieper (USPN 4,260,240). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner seems to be of the opinion that the applicant's arguments as set forth in the last Amendment attack the references individually as compared to considering the combination of references proposed by the Examiner. It is respectfully argued that, as will be further explained below, the applicant did in fact attack the references as combined by the Examiner, and the Examiner has actually failed to set forth a prima facie case of obviousness.

In regards to claim 1, the applicant's argued that Bonner does not teach or suggest that the electrode magazine moves parallel to the electrode support tube between the operative and inoperative positions as currently recited in claim 1. The Examiner has not indicated that he disagrees with the applicant's understanding of Bonner. The applicant went on to argue that the other references fail to make up for this discrepancy of Bonner. As a result, the proposed combination cannot render the invention claimed in claim 1 obvious. Contrary to the applicant's position, the Examiner seems to be of the opinion

that modifying Bonner to include the guide rails of Pieper would render claim 1 obvious. Even if one of ordinary skill in the art might consider such a modification (and it is respectfully argued that there is no teaching in the cited references that might suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art to consider the proposed combination), the guide rails of Pieper do not include the limitations of claim 1. As recited in claim 1, the electrode magazine moves in a parallel direction to the electrode support tube between the operative and inoperative positions. Contrary to the claimed invention, the lower end position of Pieper is offset or on a different plane from the upper end position (see FIG. 2 and col. 4, lines 1-5). In other words, the movement is not simply in a parallel direction to the reference point. Since Spence also fails to solve the deficiencies of Bonner and Pieper, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-9 depend from amended claim 1 and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each. For example, where in the prior art does it teach the high voltage transformer including a high voltage wire terminating in a high voltage connection for establishing a high voltage field between the electrodes and the treader roll as recited in claim 2; or a high voltage connection that includes a pair of non-conductive spacers projecting rearwardly from the rear end plate, a connector plate joining the spacers, a spring loaded screw connected to the high voltage wire and extending forwardly from the connector plate, and a conductive bus bar connected to the rear end of the electrodes and engagable with the screw when the magazine is in the operative position as recited in claim 3; or that a grooved slide track is secured for slidable movement to opposing sides of the support tube, and a pair of slide rails is mounted on the magazine such that the rails align with the grooved slide tracks to slidably support the magazine on the support tube as recited in claim 5; or that the front of the magazine includes a rotatable handle having a latch engagable with a suitable opening in the bottom of the support tube for holding the magazine in the operative position as recited in claim 6; or that the magazine includes detent structure engagable with the support tube for preventing and permitting slidable removal of the magazine from the support tube as recited in claim 7; or that the slide tracks include slot structure enabling the slide tracks when moved back and forth to

simultaneously move up and down so that the magazine will be incrementally raised or lowered to enable adjustment of a gap between the treater roll and the magazine as recited in claim 8; or that an adjustment device is mounted on a front of the support tube, the adjustable device including a rotatable knob having a rod tightly screw threaded into a cover plate on the support tube, whereby unscrewing of the knob will permit the slide tracks to move back and forth as well as up and down as recited in claim 9? It is respectfully argued that the Examiner as not pointed to any prior art that includes all of the limitations set forth in the rejected claims.

In regards to claim 10, it was argued by the applicant's that Spence fails to teach or suggest that the cabinet is integrally associated with at least one of the front end plate and the rear end plate, and that the cabinet houses the power supply and an integral high voltage transformer provided with a high voltage wire joined in a high voltage connection to the electrodes for establishing a high voltage field between the treater roll and the electrodes. The applicant's further pointed out that the other references fail to make up for the deficiencies of Spence. Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable over the proposed combination. The Examiner has failed to explain where the foregoing limitations can be found in the art of record. In fact, the Examiner failed to address the amendments made to claim 10 in the last Amendment. Absent a proper showing, claim 10 should be allowed.

In regards to claim 11, the Examiner has objected to the functional language recited therein. Although it is believed enough structural limitations can be found within the claim to support the functional language provided therein, claim 11 has been amended to more clearly recite that the high voltage connection is configured in such a way to enable a hand-free connection between the electrodes and the power supply. None of the cited references provide a high voltage connection that ensures the electrodes can be connected to the power supply without actually having to touch or come into contact with the electrodes as now recited in amended claim 11. Thus, claim 11 is allowable.

Claim 15 depends from claim 11 and, therefore, should be allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each. Moreover, the Examiner has failed to point to any prior art which teaches or suggests that the high voltage connection includes a pair of non-conductive spacers projecting rearwardly from the rear end plate, a connector plate joining the spacers, a spring loaded screw connected to the high voltage wire and extending forwardly from the connector plate, and a conductive bus bar connected to the rear end of the electrodes and engagable with the screw when the magazine is in the operative position as recited in claim 15. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 15 is allowable.

In regards to claim 12, the applicant previously argued that claim 12 sets forth that the slidable structure enables the electrode magazine to be slidably mounted on the support tube between an operative or web treating position and an inoperative or maintenance position, such that the slidable structure is adapted and configured in such a manner that the electrode magazine can remain mounted to the support tube when in both the operative or web treating position and the inoperative or maintenance position. The applicant previously stated that none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach the limitations recited in claim 12. The Examiner continues to reject claim 12, but the Examiner did not address the arguments previously raised by the applicant. It is respectfully requested that if the Examiner continues to reject claim 12, that he provide the applicant with an explanation as to why he continues to maintain the rejection especially in view of the previous amendments.

In regards to claim 14, claim 14 has been amended to more clearly recite that the slide and slot arrangement between the support tube and the electrode magazine provides sliding movement of the electrode magazine relative to the support tube, and simultaneously permits incremental raising and lowering of the electrode magazine relative to the support tube between two end positions to enable incremental adjustment of a gap between the treater roll and the magazine between the two end positions. Pieper simply teaches that the magazine is movable between two end positions during at least the operative, web treating position. Pieper does not teach that the magazine can be

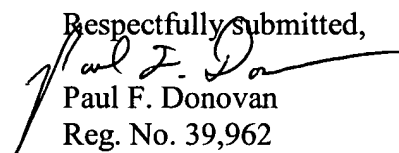
located in any other position except the two end positions. Since Pieper does not compensate for the deficiencies of Bonner, the proposed combination cannot render claim 14 obvious. Thus, claim 14 is allowable.

Claims 16-20 depend from one of claims 12, 13 and 14, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein. As with claims 2, 3, and 5-9, the Examiner has failed to point to any of the claimed structure in the prior art. Accordingly, if the Examiner continues to reject claims 16-20, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner point to those references which teach or suggest all of the limitation recited therein.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that can be addressed and expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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